

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

## DISTRICT OF ALASKA

MARLENE G. MEYER

Plaintiff,

vs.

ARG ENTERPRISES, INC. aka  
STUART ANDERSON'S CATTLE  
COMPANY RESTAURANTS

Defendant.

Case No. 3:05-cv-0239 (TMB)

ORDER

Request for Settlement Conference

One or more of the parties to this case have requested a settlement conference. In preparation for the scheduling of a settlement conference before the Honorable James A. von der Heydt, each party shall on or before January 8, 2007, lodge with the chambers of Judge von der Heydt, under seal, a settlement conference memorandum in conformity with the attached appendix. Counsel are instructed to lodge **only** the original memorandum with the settlement conference judge. Concurrent with lodging the settlement conference memoranda, counsel shall confer with one another and propose to Judge von der Heydt's Chambers at least two alternative settlement conference dates following the lodging of the settlement memoranda. The settlement conference judge will undertake a preliminary review of the settlement conference memoranda. A settlement conference will be scheduled only if, on the basis of these memoranda, it appears that there is a reason to believe that, with the assistance of the court, a settlement of the case can be negotiated.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>The court has experienced many failed settlement conferences. These failures appear by and large to be attributable to unrealistic case evaluation by counsel. Efforts to settle cases where the parties are likely far apart in their evaluation of the case almost always fail. The court does not intend to conduct settlement conferences in cases where, based upon positions taken

A party's settlement memorandum may not be disclosed to anyone without the party's consent and is not admissible in evidence.

At any conference resulting from this order, all counsel shall appear with full authority to settle all issues of this litigation; and, if such is impossible to obtain, counsel shall have their clients, with full settlement authority, available in person or by telephone at the time of the settlement conference.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:**

1. That no later than seven days prior to the settlement conference date, counsel confer with each other and their clients regarding the status of possible settlement;
2. Good faith negotiations, either in person or by electronic media, are expected to occur at this time;
3. If no settlement is achieved, counsel will be expected to report to the settlement judge at time of the conference the status of negotiations;
4. As provided in paragraph 1, it is expected that plaintiff's counsel will initiate the settlement negotiations;
5. The court will not consider plaintiff's initiation of negotiations as an indication of weakness in the plaintiff's position.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 3rd of January, 2007.

/s/ Timothy M. Burgess

TIMOTHY M. BURGESS  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

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in the settlement conference memoranda, it appears that one or both parties have taken an unrealistic position. At the time of lodging a settlement conference memorandum, counsel simply must make a full disclosure of their best evaluation of the potential outcome of the case and what they are willing to take to settle it. All of the strengths and weaknesses of one's case must be discussed in the parties' settlement conference memoranda and be given appropriate effect in one's settlement position as to the worth of the case.

## **APPENDIX**

(1) Each counsel shall lodge, under seal, with the Chambers of Judge von der Heydt, a brief informal statement of his client's position regarding settlement. The strengths and weaknesses of one's position must be candidly disclosed and appraised.

(2) The statement required by paragraph (1) may not exceed twenty (20) pages (including attachments), double spaced on standard 8-1/2" x 11" paper.

(3) If plaintiff seeks monetary damages, a specific present reasonable dollar figure requested by plaintiff must be set forth. If plaintiff is unable to set forth such figure, the purpose of which is to aid the settlement judge in evaluating the case, a convincing statement must be included, stating the reasons that no such figure can be included.

(4) Defendant must set forth its present reasonable dollar figure offer. Likewise, if defendant is unable to set forth such figure, the purpose of which is to aid the settlement judge in evaluating the case, a convincing statement must be included, stating the reasons no such figure can be included.